

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /068 W

-----210601Z 020119 /20

P R 210520Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7379

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4117

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: ARREST OF KING SAVANG VATTHANA

1. I AM SURE THAT ALL OF US WHO HAVE SERVED IN LAOS ARE DEEPLY DISTURBED BY PRESS REPORTS THAT KING SAVANG HAS BEEN ARRESTED AND CONDEMNED TO DEATH. WHILE THE LATTER PART OF THE REPORT MAY BE EXAGGERATED, ITS NATURE WOULD SEEM TO CALL FOR SOME SORT OF INTERNATIONAL REACTION.

2. DURING HIS REIGN, THE KING TOOK GREAT PAINS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE DWINDLING NUMBER OF OTHER ROYAL FAMILIES WHICH STILL CLING TO THEIR THRONES. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THOSE MONARCHIES MIGHT FEEL SOME SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THEIR ERSTWHILE COLLEAGUE AND COULD PERHAPS BE PERSUADED TO ENTER SOME SORT OF INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THIS ESSENTIALLY DECENT MAN AND HIS FAMILY.

3. PERHAPS THE DEPT. IS WELL AHEAD OF THE GAME AT THIS
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STAGE AND PERHAPS THE RECENT WOODCOCK COMMISSION VISIT TO VIENTIANE WAS ABLE TO MAKE SOME HEADWAY ON THIS ISSUE. IN IGNORANCE OF THESE FACTORS, HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT AN EFFORT BE MOUNTED (WITHOUT THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THE U.S. HAND) TO HAVE VARIOUS MONARCHIES ENLISTED IN A JOINT DEMARCHE TO THE LAO AND VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE KING. IT MIGHT BE THAT THE

BRITISH ARE BEST ABLE TO COORDINATE THIS, ALTHOUGH THE
ABSENCE OF THE QUEEN MIGHT CAUSE DELAYS. AS AN ALTERNATIVE,
JOHN DEAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO STIMULATE SOMETHING AMONG THE
SCANDINAVIAN MONARCHS, WHO MAY HAVE BETTER RAPPORT WITH
HANOI THAN THE BRITISH, IN ANY EVENT.

4. PLEASE ADVISE DEPT. THINKING, AND KEEP THOSE OF US
WITH A PERSONAL INTEREST CLUED INTO THE PICTURE.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KING, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA04117
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770095-1196
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770339/aaaabhxr.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 84aed4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3047397
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST OF KING SAVANG VATTHANA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LA, (SAVANG VATTHANA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/84aed4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009